



Dear ISBA Members,

Here is your Week #6 ISBA Legislative Update...Less than one month (likely) left of the session! Bills must be voted out of the committee in the second chamber by February 27, to remain eligible for final passage this session.

2nd Annual ISBA State House Day a Success!

Thank you to all who attended the 2nd Annual ISBA State House Day held on Tuesday. We had many school board members in attendance from all 10 ISBA regions. We began our morning with a briefing on the latest news and insights regarding the 2020 session of the Indiana General Assembly to prepare our delegation for the rest of the day. We then moved onto a panel discussion with five legislators, including the chairmen of the House and Senate education committees and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. Our luncheon had approximately 100 people in attendance, including 30 legislators. Board members engaged in excellent table conversations with their area legislators during the lunch hour. We concluded the event with a visit to the State House for a group photo and many members continued their grassroots lobby efforts by seeking hall conversations with additional legislators. Kudos to all who attended to show a strength in numbers and unity of message! Through board

members like those who attended, we are striving to take ISBA advocacy to the next level – *and it is working!*

Key Bills Remaining This Session Supported by ISBA

[HB 1204](#) **Education matters** (Rep. Bob Cherry): This bill proposes, in part, to require that the February count of a school corporation's average daily membership (ADM) must be increased by the number of students who, during the students' expected graduation year: (1) were enrolled in the school corporation on the September ADM count day; (2) completed graduation requirements before the February ADM count day; and (3) were not enrolled in the school corporation on the February ADM count day. In simple terms, this provision would ensure school corporations are not penalized for funding purposes for seniors who graduate mid-year. The bill also removes the cap on the amount of Career and Technical Education enrollment grants that may be distributed per state fiscal year.

This bill also includes increased oversight of virtual charter schools. It requires, no later than November 1, 2020, the Indiana Department of Education to establish standards concerning the following: (1) The minimum amount of time that a student of a virtual charter school must participate in educational activities provided by the virtual charter school each semester of the school year; (2) Requirements that a student of a virtual charter school participate in the statewide assessment or an alternate assessment, as applicable. Provides that, if a student of a virtual charter school fails, in a semester, to meet the standards, the student must be withdrawn from enrollment in the virtual charter school and may not reenroll or enroll in another virtual charter school. Requires, beginning January 1, 2021, the department to reduce state tuition support distribution to a virtual charter school if students of the virtual charter school fail to meet the standards.

Call-to-Action Alert on HB 1204! HB 1204 is the most important bill to K-12 public education remaining this session. This bill provides school funding dollars totaling approximately \$30 million in support of public education during

the current budget biennium AND includes appropriate and necessary regulations of virtual charter schools. **PLEASE EMAIL OR CALL YOUR STATE SENATOR TO ASK THEM TO SUPPORT THE PASSAGE OF ALL SECTIONS OF HB 1204 in the Senate Appropriations Committee next week.**

[House Bill 1002](#), **Teacher Evaluations** (Representatives Cook and McNamara). This bill will eliminate a statutory requirement that state summative assessment scores must be used for teacher evaluations and allows local governing bodies to decide whether these scores should be used in this manner. Please communicate with your senator to ask for their support for HB 1002.

[HB 1003](#) **Education Matters** (Rep. Jordan): This bill has several provisions impacting school corporations, including language that would (1) allow a school or a group of schools to submit a plan to the State Board of Education requesting waivers of current statutes and regulations, (2) require the State Board of Education to determine teacher training requirements, (3) permit (as opposed to require) a teacher to earn 15 professional growth points through the completion of an externship, and (4) allow a school corporation to publish in a newspaper a summary of its annual performance report along with a link to the full report posted on the Internet. The Senate Education and Career Development Committee heard testimony on the bill this week, most of which was favorable. ISBA testified in support of the bill. Some senators on the Committee expressed reservations about allowing schools to waive laws passed by the General Assembly. The Hoosier Press Association objected to allowing school corporations to publish just a summary of the annual performance report. The bill will be voted on next week.

Call-to-Action Alert on HB 1003! If you have statutes or state administrative code that your board would want waived through this proposed process, please let us know by emailing Lisa Tanselle at: ltanselle@isba-ind.org. We want to provide specific examples of burdensome regulations, obsolete statutes, or

unfunded mandates as we continue to advocate for this bill. Also, please email or call your area state senator to ask for their support for this bill as received from the House.

Other Bills in Committee This Week

[SB223](#) **FAFSA Requirements** (Sen. Leising): The House Education Committee heard testimony on this bill on Wednesday. The bill requires all seniors to complete the Free Application for Financial Student Aid (FAFSA) application unless a parent signs a waiver or the principal waives the requirement due to extenuating circumstances. The bill is a high priority for the Commission on Higher Education and the Indiana Chamber of Commerce. Both organizations testified in support of the bill, saying many Hoosier students are missing out on the opportunity to receive federal aid for multiple post-secondary opportunities. ISBA and IASP testified against the bill, noting the administrative burden on school officials of tracking down parent signatures on waiver forms and of determining whether there are extenuating circumstances that allow the principal to waive the requirement. The bill will be voted on next week.

[SB 266](#) **Teacher Training** (Sen. Donato): The House Education Committee also heard testimony on this bill. It requires the Indiana Department of Education to evaluate teacher training requirements and prepare a report with recommendations on (1) combining or reducing current requirements, (2) including training requirements in teacher preparation programs, and/or (3) completing training requirements in conjunction with renewing teacher licenses. The Department's report would have to be submitted to the General Assembly by October 1, 2020. The testimony of several organizations, including ISBA, was in support of the bill. The bill will be voted on next week.

[HB 1091](#) **Education Benefits Relating to Military Service** (Rep. Cook): This bill amends current legal settlement statutes and provides that a student is considered to have legal settlement in Indiana when a parent of the student is transferred to or is pending transfer to a military installation within Indiana while

on active duty pursuant to an official military order and the parent submits appropriate documentation to the school corporation. All testimony presented to the Senate Education and Career Development Committee was supportive of the bill. The bill will be voted on next week.

I want to conclude this weekly update by sharing that legislators are sharing with me that they are hearing regularly from school board members and our unified voice is having an impact. Thank you for all you are doing to support K-12 public education and local control in our Hoosier state!